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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EUR-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	OMB-00
	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	FMPC-00
	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	TRSE-00	R-00	IIP-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/001W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7178

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 002432

NSC FOR CBARTON

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/30/2014

TAGS: PGOV, KDEM, PHUM, VE

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION UNITES BEHIND GOVERNANCE ACCORD

REF: CARACAS 2248

Classified By: A/DCM Abelardo A. Arias for Reason 1.5 (d).

Summary

1. (C) The Coordinadora Democratica is calling on Venezuelans to sign its National Accord for Social Justice and Democratic Peace August 1. Coordinadora leaders publicly signed the document, which establishes a broad framework for an opposition-led transition government, should President Chavez be recalled, on July 25. The concise document outlines

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principles of unity, reconstruction, reconciliation, and peace and recommends broad political, economic, and social reforms. The Accord formally recommends a primary election to determine the unified opposition candidate in a follow-on presidential election, who would promise not to seek immediate re-election in 2006. End summary.

A United Accord

2. (U) Coordinadora Democratica leaders from 60 political parties and civil society organizations signed the National Accord for Social Justice and Democratic Peace, also called the Governance Accord or Pact, on July 25. The opposition leaders sat on the stage as actress Eva Gutierrez read the four-page document, which outlines broad themes and goals for an opposition-led transition government. Unity is the overall theme, while reconstruction, reconciliation, and peace are core principles of the Accord. The Coordinadora leaders then called upon all supporters to sign the Accord on August 1 at any of the 8,330 voting centers around the country. Beyond signing the Accord, this opposition event will allow people to verify where they are to vote August 15.

(Note: This verification is a major opposition concern since it was learned that the National Electoral Council (CNE) had changed the location where more than one million voters are to go.)

3. (U) The Accord, designed to "establish the foundation to the solutions of the significant problems of Venezuela," outlines broad goals in five major areas: social issues, economic recovery, political and constitutional reforms, the judicial system, and international relations. The Accord proposes immediate social programs to relieve hunger and unemployment, an improvement in health and education systems, and an emergency plan to protect citizens' security. The economic goals focus on the recovery of the petroleum sector, but avoid direct mention of privatization or foreign investment.

4. (U) The Accord's proposed political reforms focus on constitutional reform, such as the reduction in presidential power, the focus on decentralization, and the reform of the military. In addition, the proposed political reforms call for the re-establishment of a bicameral legislature and the creation of a run-off presidential election. The judicial goals include a declaration of emergency on the judicial system, a referendum on the Supreme Court law, and a reassessment of the appointment process for judges. The

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Accord also recommends a foreign policy strategy that advances the strategic interests of the country and respects international conventions. The Accord and Plan Consenso cover many common themes (reftel). However, the Accord makes broad recommendations and sets out guiding principles for an opposition-led transition government compared to the more specific, action-oriented Plan Consenso Pais.

Opposition Primary Implications

5. (C) The Accord states that the opposition will hold a primary election to choose a unified, opposition candidate for a follow-on presidential election. It requires that the

chosen candidate commit to not seek immediate re-election in 2006. [redacted]

[redacted] told poloff on July 28 that this re-election commitment is a "moral obligation" and that it will have little effect on who is a candidate for the opposition primary. The Accord, however, does not specify whether the primary will be open or closed, nor when it will take place. (Note: An open primary would permit all registered voters to participate while a closed primary would only allow persons who signed to recall the President to participate.)

[redacted] the group organizing the primary has maintained their recommendation of August 29 as the date of the referendum.

The Opposition Unites

6. (U) At the Accord's unveiling, opposition leaders joined and raised hands in a symbolic show of unity after the official release of the Accord. Media reports portray a unified opposition, determined to address the issues and present a viable alternative to the Chavez administration. Henrique Salas Roemer, Carabobo State governor and possible primary candidate, said that this Accord unites the country and creates a legitimate process to choose an opposition unified candidate. Julio Borges, President of Primero Justicia, said the Accord focuses the referendum campaign on the problems of Venezuela and provides solutions.

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